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Approved For Release 2004/08/19 : CIA-RDP81M00980R000100020084-7

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Note: This was taken to the meeting (see OLC 78-1108) but brought back in accordance with THW's Memo for Record, OLC 78-1108.

Office of Legislative Counsel

13 March 1978

OLC-78-1105/a
Drigo

Mr. Joseph L. Nellis, Chief Counsel
Select Committee on Narcotics and
Drug Abuse Control
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Joe:

In response to your request that this Agency review material which you provided on 12 December 1977, enclosed is a statement which reflects our comments thereon.

As you can understand, the material has to do with a number of matters over which this Agency has no jurisdiction or authorization; therefore, our comments are limited to those areas within our jurisdiction and authority.

I hope our comments will satisfy your needs.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Legislative Counsel

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Enclosure

Downgraded to Unclassified
when separated from enclosure

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Classified by [Redacted]

Exempt from general

declassification schedule of E.O. 11652

Exemption Category 5B(1), (2), (3)

Automatically declassified on

Date Impossible to Determine

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The material provided to the Central Intelligence Agency by the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control concerning the [redacted] and [redacted] has been reviewed by the appropriate elements of the Agency.

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CIA has no information to support allegations that Fidel Castro and the Cuban Government may be involved either directly or in a supporting capacity in the international trafficking of narcotics.

The House Select Committee files contain several references listing the CIA among those Federal agencies involved in active investigation of the [redacted] matter. We should like to correct the record in this regard. This Agency is not, in fact, involved in any domestic investigation of this case which is essentially a law enforcement matter.

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The House Select Committee staff states that certain members of the Cuban exile community allegedly involved in the [redacted] case may have had or still have an operational relationship with this Agency. Some of the persons associated with the [redacted] did in fact have a previous relationship with CIA. For example, [redacted]

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[redacted] He was captured at the Bay of Pigs, but was included among the ransomed prisoners returned in December 1962. Our records do not indicate any contact between this Agency and [redacted] since that time. Furthermore, we have examined our records concerning all of the other principals under investigation, and there is no current CIA operational relationship with any of these individuals. CIA has provided the Drug Enforcement Administration and the South Florida Terrorist and Narcotics Intelligence Task Force with information from our files concerning the past activities of individuals allegedly associated with the [redacted] or involved in other related investigations by these agencies.

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The November 15, 1977, Memorandum from House Select Committee staff investigators to Chairman Wolf (EYES ONLY) contains a statement (page 5) that the role of the CIA (in the investigation) is "not understood at this time." This same paragraph also states "that sources at DEA Headquarters in Washington told us that the CIA has contacted them and has expressed great concern for certain of the current law enforcement investigations in Miami." The paragraph concludes with the statement that the House Select Committee investigators will be providing the Chairman with their feelings and evaluations of this matter (CIA's role) in a separate memorandum.

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Again we should like to emphasize that CIA is concerned with only the foreign aspects of narcotics trafficking and production. While the Agency is allowed under certain conditions to collect, store and disseminate information concerning U.S. persons involved in such illicit activities, it does not participate in law enforcement investigations. CIA has supplied foreign narcotics intelligence information to law enforcement agencies, but does not take an "active" investigative role.

With regard to the DEA statement that CIA had showed "concern" about current criminal investigations in Miami, our records indicate no such expression of concern, except for the normal concern for the continued protection of sensitive sources and methods. We should appreciate any clarification of this statement which you or your Staff can provide us.

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